

## **ABSTRACT OF PROGRAM**

### **Our Service**

vTutor is the drop-in homework help and tutorial service provided by Elluminate to deliver online, real-time access to qualified instructors to students in 5th - 12th Grade Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). The vTutor service is provided over the Internet, utilizing Elluminate's vClass software, a virtual classroom product that allows 2-way audio communications, instant messaging communications, and the use of a shared, interactive whiteboard to display educational content. Our service has two components to it, allowing for a comprehensive program for students:

### **Drop-in Homework Help**

Students seek help from a qualified instructor during and after school by visiting the vTutor web site and accessing our vTutor service using vClass, our virtual classroom. The drop-in sessions are conducted on a one-to-one basis and are based on diagnostic assessments conducted the first time the student accesses the service. Drop-in sessions will be available 8 hours a day, Monday through Friday from 1 - 9 PM (Central). The length of each visit is dependent upon student need and the amount of help required. Students can access our drop-in service as often as they would like for a maximum of 7 hours per month.

### **Tutorials**

Once a day, we will provide a 50-minute, live, instructor-led tutorial session covering various specific mathematics and language arts subjects. These are highly interactive sessions, which seek to provide students with a stronger understanding of the topic. A schedule of tutorials (times and topics) will be available on a monthly basis and students can enroll in these sessions online. These sessions will be recorded and available anytime to any student who could not enroll in the live session. Over time, a library of tutorials will be built that will serve as an excellent reference source for your students.

### **Instructional Methodology**

Our teaching methodology provides for differentiated learning, based on a constructivist approach. The learner is given tasks and opportunities, information resources and support, and is encouraged to construct their own version of the content, subject to revision through feedback. Many paths through the lesson are allowed and collaboration with other learners is stressed over lonely individual learning. A constructivist use of technology presents information to the learner in multiple forms from multiple sources and invites the learner to make sense of it.

### **Connection to State Standards and District Instructional Programs**

All Elluminate instructors are well versed with the Indiana Academic Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts and will focus on these during all sessions. Diagnostic Exams will be created based on these Content Standards and each question on the Diagnostic Exam will be linked to a specific content standard. This will allow us to determine the student's progress according to standards. Furthermore, because vTutor is available during the school day, classroom teachers are free to dialogue with the

Elluminate instructors when they assign a student to get vTutor help. VTutor instructors work WITH classroom teachers to structure a plan for each individual student and provide that student with the best opportunity for success.

### **Access to Instruction**

Elluminate has offered online, instructional support to students across North America since October 2000. Our trained and experienced educators have provided this support to students of all kinds, including Title I students, rural and urban students, second language students, and students who needed special support. Our technology uses 2-way audio communications (voice over IP) to aid visually impaired students and utilizes both chat (instant messaging) and a shared, interactive whiteboard for hearing-impaired students. Tutorials can be delivered in Spanish, if required.

### **Instructor Training**

All of our instructors have been thoroughly trained in online education and effective methods of teaching online. Each is expert in using the virtual classroom technology, vClass, and using it to its full potential to teach students effectively. Each Instructor has been trained in our pedagogical model, providing for differentiated learning, based on the constructivist model. All Instructors provide non-secular instruction in all their interactions with students and parents. Our instructors have taught at a variety of schools, including private schools, virtual schools, junior and senior high schools, colleges and universities. All members of our team hold a Teaching Certificate (B.Ed.), as well as specialized and graduate degrees.

### **Parent and School Involvement**

In order to monitor student progress, students will be asked to complete diagnostic exams. These diagnostic exams will be scored automatically, determining the student's proficiency level. Students will receive immediate, detailed feedback on their performance, which questions were answered correctly and incorrectly, and the correct solution for each question will be provided. Throughout the year, instructors will continue to work with students to help with areas of difficulty. As the students progress, they will be evaluated at each level with diagnostic exams from different curricular strands and higher-grade levels. Elluminate will provide regular updates on our services to schools, parents, and administrators as follows:

- *Online instant access to student records.* This will be done through a central database where the parent or school will be provided with the username and password for each student. While students and parents access that student's individual record, school administrators can access individual or aggregate records.
- *General updates by quarterly newsletters.*
- *Regular online presentations to explain the service and the technology to all stakeholders.* These can be requested by the school to take place during staff meetings, at Parent Council meetings, and at student-focused events.